

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
MARSHALL DIVISION**

RAVENWHITE LICENSING LLC,

Plaintiff,

v.

THE HOME DEPOT, INC. *et al.*,

Defendants.

§
§
§
§
§
§
§
§
§

CIVIL ACTION NO. 2:23-CV-423-JRG-RSP
(Lead Case)

PROTECTIVE ORDER

WHEREAS, Plaintiff RavenWhite Licensing, LLC and Defendants The Home Depot, Inc., Home Depot USA, Inc., Walmart Inc., and Wal-Mart Stores Texas, LLC, hereafter referred to as “the Parties,” believe that certain information that is or will be encompassed by discovery demands by the Parties involves the production or disclosure of trade secrets, confidential business information, or other proprietary information;

WHEREAS, the Parties seek a protective order limiting disclosure thereof in accordance with Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(c):

THEREFORE, it is hereby stipulated among the Parties and ORDERED that:

1. Each Party may designate as confidential for protection under this Order, in whole or in part, any document, information or material that constitutes or includes, in whole or in part, confidential or proprietary information or trade secrets of the Party or a Third Party to whom the Party reasonably believes it owes an obligation of confidentiality with respect to such document, information or material (“Protected Material”). Protected Material shall be

designated by the Party producing it by affixing a legend or stamp on such document, information or material as follows: “CONFIDENTIAL.” The word “CONFIDENTIAL” shall be placed clearly on each page of the Protected Material (except native files and deposition and hearing transcripts) for which such protection is sought. For native files, the word “CONFIDENTIAL” shall be included in the file name of the designated native files or in the slip sheet associated with the native file in the party’s production. For deposition and hearing transcripts, the word “CONFIDENTIAL” shall be placed on the cover page of the transcript (if not already present on the cover page of the transcript when received from the court reporter) by each attorney receiving a copy of the transcript after that attorney receives notice of the designation of some or all of that transcript as “CONFIDENTIAL.”

2. Any document produced under Patent Rules 2-2, 3-2, and/or 3-4 before issuance of this Order with the designation “CONFIDENTIAL” or “CONFIDENTIAL - OUTSIDE ATTORNEYS’ EYES ONLY” shall receive the same treatment as if designated “RESTRICTED - ATTORNEYS’ EYES ONLY” under this Order, unless and until such document is redesignated to have a different classification under this Order.
3. With respect to documents, information or material designated “CONFIDENTIAL,” “RESTRICTED - ATTORNEYS’ EYES ONLY,” or “RESTRICTED CONFIDENTIAL SOURCE CODE” (“DESIGNATED MATERIAL”),¹ subject to the provisions herein and unless otherwise stated, this Order governs, without limitation: (a) all documents, electronically stored information, and/or things as defined by the Federal Rules of Civil

¹ The term DESIGNATED MATERIAL is used throughout this Protective Order to refer to the class of materials designated as “CONFIDENTIAL,” “RESTRICTED - ATTORNEYS’ EYES ONLY,” or “RESTRICTED CONFIDENTIAL SOURCE CODE,” both individually and collectively.

Procedure; (b) all pretrial, hearing or deposition testimony, or documents marked as exhibits or for identification in depositions and hearings; (c) pretrial pleadings, exhibits to pleadings and other court filings; (d) affidavits; and (e) stipulations. All copies, reproductions, extracts, digests and complete or partial summaries prepared from any DESIGNATED MATERIALS shall also be considered DESIGNATED MATERIAL and treated as such under this Order.

4. A designation of Protected Material (i.e., “CONFIDENTIAL,” “RESTRICTED - ATTORNEYS’ EYES ONLY,” or “RESTRICTED CONFIDENTIAL SOURCE CODE”) may be made at any time. Inadvertent or unintentional production of documents, information or material that has not been designated as DESIGNATED MATERIAL shall not be deemed a waiver in whole or in part of a claim for confidential treatment. Any party that inadvertently or unintentionally produces Protected Material without designating it as DESIGNATED MATERIAL may request destruction of that Protected Material by notifying the recipient(s), as soon as reasonably possible after the producing Party becomes aware of the inadvertent or unintentional disclosure, and providing replacement Protected Material that is properly designated. The recipient(s) shall then destroy all copies of the inadvertently or unintentionally produced Protected Materials and any documents, information or material derived from or based thereon.
5. “CONFIDENTIAL” documents, information and material may be disclosed only to the following persons, except upon receipt of the prior written consent of the designating party, upon order of the Court, or as set forth in paragraph 12 herein:
 - (a) outside counsel of record in this Action for the Parties;
 - (b) employees of such counsel assigned to and reasonably necessary to assist such counsel in the litigation of this Action;

- (c) in-house counsel for the Parties who either have responsibility for making decisions dealing directly with the litigation of this Action, or who are assisting outside counsel in the litigation of this Action;
- (d) up to and including three designated representatives of each of the Parties to the extent reasonably necessary for the litigation of this Action, except that either party may in good faith request the other party's consent to designate one or more additional representatives, the other party shall not unreasonably withhold such consent, and the requesting party may seek leave of Court to designate such additional representative(s) if the requesting party believes the other party has unreasonably withheld such consent;
- (e) outside consultants or experts (*i.e.*, not existing employees or affiliates of a Party or an affiliate of a Party) retained for the purpose of this litigation and who are not presently employed by the Parties hereto for purposes other than this Action, provided that at least ten (10) days before access to the Protected Material is to be given to that consultant or expert, the Party seeking such disclosure must serve to the producing Party: (1) the full name of the consultant or expert and the city and state of his or her primary residence, a copy of the (2) a current curriculum vitae of the consultant or expert, (3) the consultant or expert's current employer, (4) a list of each person or entity from whom the consultant or expert has received compensation or funding for work in his or her areas of expertise or to whom the consultant or expert has provided professional services (including in connection with litigation) at any time during the preceding five years,² and (5) a list of all other cases in which, during the previous four years, the consultant or expert has testified as an expert at trial or by deposition, and (6) a copy of the Undertaking attached as Exhibit A hereto executed by the consultant or expert. The producing Party may notify the receiving Party in writing that it objects to disclosure of Protected Material to the consultant or expert. The Parties agree to promptly confer and use good faith to resolve any such objection. If the Parties are unable to resolve any objection, the objecting Party may file a motion with the Court within fifteen (15) days of the notice, or within such other time as the Parties may agree, seeking a protective order with respect to the proposed disclosure. The objecting Party shall have the burden of proving the need for a protective order. No disclosure shall occur until all such objections are resolved by agreement or Court order;
- (f) independent litigation support services, including persons working for or as court reporters, graphics or design services, jury or trial consulting services, and photocopy, document imaging, and database services retained by counsel and

² If the consultant or expert believes any of this information is subject to a confidentiality obligation to a third-party, then the consultant or expert should provide whatever information he or she believes can be disclosed without violating any confidentiality agreements, and the Party seeking to disclose to the consultant or expert shall be available to meet and confer with the producing Party regarding any such engagement.

reasonably necessary to assist counsel with the litigation of this Action; and

- (g) the Court and its personnel;
 - (h) mock jurors who have signed an undertaking or agreement agreeing not to publicly disclose Protected Material or keep any information concerning Protected Material confidential; and
 - (i) any mediator who is assigned to hear this matter, and his or her staff, subject to their agreement to maintain confidentiality to the same degree as required by this Order.
6. A Party shall designate documents, information or material as “CONFIDENTIAL” only upon a good faith belief that the documents, information or material contains confidential or proprietary information or trade secrets of the Party or a Third Party to whom the Party reasonably believes it owes an obligation of confidentiality with respect to such documents, information or material.
7. Documents, information or material produced pursuant to any discovery request in this Action, including but not limited to Protected Material designated as DESIGNATED MATERIAL, shall be used by the Parties only in the litigation of this Action and shall not be used for any other purpose. Any person or entity who obtains access to DESIGNATED MATERIAL or the contents thereof pursuant to this Order shall not make any copies, duplicates, extracts, summaries or descriptions of such DESIGNATED MATERIAL or any portion thereof except as may be reasonably necessary in the litigation of this Action. Any such copies, duplicates, extracts, summaries or descriptions shall be classified DESIGNATED MATERIALS and subject to all of the terms and conditions of this Order.
8. To the extent a producing Party believes that certain Protected Material qualifying to be designated CONFIDENTIAL is so sensitive that its dissemination deserves even further limitation, the producing Party may designate such Protected Material “RESTRICTED -

ATTORNEYS' EYES ONLY," or to the extent such Protected Material includes computer source code ("Source Code"), the producing Party may designate such Protected Material as "RESTRICTED CONFIDENTIAL SOURCE CODE."

9. For Protected Material designated RESTRICTED – ATTORNEYS' EYES ONLY, access to, and disclosure of, such Protected Material shall be limited to individuals listed in paragraphs 5(a-c) and (e-i); provided, however, that access by in-house counsel pursuant to paragraph 5(c) be limited to in-house counsel who exercise no competitive decision-making authority on behalf of the client.
10. For Protected Material designated RESTRICTED CONFIDENTIAL SOURCE CODE, the following additional restrictions apply in addition to the restrictions set forth in paragraph 9 for Protected Material designated "RESTRICTED – ATTORNEYS' EYES ONLY":
 - (a) Access to a Party's Source Code shall be provided only on a "stand-alone" computer (that is, the computer may not be linked to any network, including a local area network ("LAN"), an intranet or the Internet). The stand-alone computer may be connected to (i) a printer, or (ii) a device capable of temporarily storing electronic copies solely for the limited purposes permitted pursuant to paragraphs 10 (h and k) below. Additionally, except as provided in paragraph 10(k) below, the stand-alone computer may only be located at the offices of the producing Party's outside counsel.
 - (b) The receiving Party shall make reasonable efforts to restrict its requests for such access to the stand-alone computer(s) to normal business hours, which for purposes of this paragraph shall be 9:00 a.m. through 5:00 p.m local time. However, upon reasonable notice from the receiving party, the producing Party shall make reasonable efforts to accommodate the receiving Party's request for access to the stand-alone computer(s) outside of normal business hours. The Parties agree to cooperate in good faith such that maintaining the producing Party's Source Code at the offices of its outside counsel shall not unreasonably hinder the receiving Party's ability to efficiently and effectively conduct the prosecution or defense of this Action.
 - (c) The producing Party shall provide the receiving Party with information explaining how to start, log on to, and operate the stand-alone computer(s) in order to access the produced Source Code on the stand-alone computer(s).

- (d) The producing Party will produce Source Code in computer searchable format on the stand-alone computer(s) as described above.
- (e) Access to each producing Party's Protected Material designated RESTRICTED CONFIDENTIAL - SOURCE CODE shall be limited to outside counsel and up to four outside consultants or experts³ (*i.e.*, not existing employees or affiliates of a Party or an affiliate of a Party) retained for the purpose of this litigation and approved to access such Protected Materials pursuant to paragraph 5(e) above. A receiving Party may include excerpts of Source Code in a pleading, exhibit, expert report, discovery document, deposition transcript, other Court document, provided that the Source Code Documents are appropriately marked under this Order, restricted to those who are entitled to have access to them as specified herein, and, if filed with the Court, filed under seal in accordance with the Court's rules, procedures, and orders. The producing Party will provide a stand-alone computer that does not contain Source Code for the purpose of typing notes and a dedicated printer connected to said stand-alone notetaking computer. Each person authorized to access Source Code may use the stand-alone notetaking computer for the purpose of typing notes related to source code review using an application such as "Notepad," provided that said notes do not comprise copying of lines of code. Such notes can be printed upon request and will not count against the page limits described herein. During review of Source Code, the receiving Party (including its Experts) shall also be entitled to take handwritten notes relating to the Source Code but may not copy any lines of the Source Code into the notes. Any such handwritten notes shall be taken in a bound notebook.
- (f) To the extent portions of Source Code are quoted in a Source Code Document, either (1) the entire Source Code Document will be stamped and treated as RESTRICTED CONFIDENTIAL SOURCE CODE or (2) those pages containing quoted Source Code will be separately stamped and treated as RESTRICTED CONFIDENTIAL SOURCE CODE.
- (g) Except as set forth in paragraph 10(k) below, no electronic copies of Source Code shall be made without prior written consent of the producing Party, except as necessary to create documents which, pursuant to the Court's rules, procedures and order, must be filed or served electronically or except as otherwise provided herein.
- (h) The receiving Party shall be permitted to print a reasonable number of pages of Source Code, from which the receiving Party may make a reasonable number of photocopies, which shall presumptively be a total of five (5). All printouts shall be designated and clearly labeled "RESTRICTED CONFIDENTIAL SOURCE

³ For the purposes of this paragraph, an outside consultant or expert is defined to include the outside consultant's or expert's direct reports and other support personnel, such that the disclosure to a consultant or expert who employs others within his or her firm to help in his or her analysis shall count as a disclosure to a single consultant or expert.

CODE.” The receiving Party shall maintain a log of all such files that are printed or photocopied. Any party may later move to modify this limitation for good cause.

- (i) Should such printouts or photocopies be transferred back to electronic media, such media shall be labeled “RESTRICTED CONFIDENTIAL SOURCE CODE” and shall continue to be treated as such;
- (j) If the receiving Party’s outside counsel, consultants, or experts obtain printouts or photocopies of Source Code, the receiving Party shall ensure that such outside counsel, consultants, or experts keep the printouts or photocopies in a secured locked area in the offices of such outside counsel, consultants, or expert. The receiving Party may also temporarily keep the printouts or photocopies at: (i) the Court for any proceedings(s) relating to the Source Code, for the dates associated with the proceeding(s); (ii) the sites where any deposition(s) relating to the Source Code are taken, for the dates associated with the deposition(s); and (iii) any intermediate location reasonably necessary to transport the printouts or photocopies (e.g., a hotel prior to a Court proceeding or deposition); and
- (k) A producing Party’s Source Code may only be transported by the receiving Party at the direction of a person authorized under paragraph 10(e) above to another person authorized under paragraph 10(e) above, on paper or removable electronic media (e.g., a DVD, CD-ROM, or flash memory “stick”) via hand carry, Federal Express or other similarly reliable courier. Source Code may not be transported or transmitted electronically over a network of any kind, including a LAN, an intranet, or the Internet. Source Code may only be transported electronically for the purpose of Court proceeding(s), deposition(s), or expert report preparation as set forth in paragraph 10(j) above and is at all times subject to the transport restrictions set forth herein. But, for those purposes only, the Source Code may be loaded onto a stand-alone computer.

11. Any attorney representing a Party, whether in-house or outside counsel, and any person associated with a Party and permitted to receive the other Party’s Protected Material that is designated RESTRICTED - ATTORNEYS’ EYES ONLY and/or RESTRICTED CONFIDENTIAL SOURCE CODE (collectively “HIGHLY SENSITIVE MATERIAL”), who obtains, receives, has access to, or otherwise learns, in whole or in part, the other Party’s HIGHLY SENSITIVE MATERIAL under this Order shall not prepare, prosecute, supervise, or assist in the preparation or prosecution of any patent application pertaining to the field of the invention of the patents-in-suit during the pendency of this Action and for

two years after its conclusion, including any appeals. This provision shall not prevent participating or assisting in inter partes review, reissue, and reexamination proceedings of any patents, including the patents-in-suit, provided that such participation or assistance shall not, directly or indirectly, include suggesting, proposing for substitution, drafting, or amending patent claim language.

12. Nothing in this Order shall require production of documents, information or other material that a Party contends is protected from disclosure by the attorney-client privilege, the work product doctrine, or other privilege, doctrine, or immunity. The parties agree that Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(b)(5)(B) governs the situation in which information produced in discovery is subject to a claim of privilege or of protection as trial-preparation material.
13. There shall be no disclosure of any DESIGNATED MATERIAL by any person authorized to have access thereto to any person who is not authorized for such access under this Order. The Parties are hereby ORDERED to safeguard all such documents, information and material to protect against disclosure to any unauthorized persons or entities.
14. Nothing contained herein shall be construed to prejudice any Party's right to use any DESIGNATED MATERIAL in taking testimony at any deposition or hearing provided that the DESIGNATED MATERIAL is only disclosed to a person(s) who is: (i) eligible to have access to the DESIGNATED MATERIAL by virtue of his or her employment with the designating party, (ii) identified in the DESIGNATED MATERIAL as an author, addressee, or copy recipient of such information, (iii) although not identified as an author, addressee, or copy recipient of such DESIGNATED MATERIAL, has, in the ordinary course of business, seen such DESIGNATED MATERIAL, (iv) a current or former officer, director or employee of the producing Party or a current or former officer, director or employee of

a company affiliated with the producing Party; (v) a 30(b)(6) witness of the producing Party; (vi) counsel for a Party, including outside counsel and in-house counsel (subject to paragraph 9 of this Order); (vii) an independent contractor, consultant, and/or expert retained for the purpose of this litigation; (viii) court reporters and videographers; (ix) the Court; or (x) other persons entitled hereunder to access to DESIGNATED MATERIAL. DESIGNATED MATERIAL shall not be disclosed to any other persons unless prior authorization is obtained from counsel representing the producing Party or from the Court.

15. Parties may, at the deposition or hearing or within thirty (30) days after receipt of a deposition or hearing transcript, designate the deposition or hearing transcript or any portion thereof as “CONFIDENTIAL,” “RESTRICTED - ATTORNEYS’ EYES ONLY,” or “RESTRICTED CONFIDENTIAL SOURCE CODE” pursuant to this Order. Access to the deposition or hearing transcript so designated shall be limited in accordance with the terms of this Order. Until expiration of the 30-day period, the entire deposition or hearing transcript shall be treated as “RESTRICTED - ATTORNEYS’ EYES ONLY,” unless otherwise designated by the Parties.
16. Any DESIGNATED MATERIAL that is filed with the Court shall be filed under seal and shall remain under seal until further order of the Court. The filing party shall be responsible for informing the Clerk of the Court that the filing should be sealed and for placing the legend “FILED UNDER SEAL PURSUANT TO PROTECTIVE ORDER” above the caption and conspicuously on each page of the filing. Exhibits to a filing shall conform to the labeling requirements set forth in this Order. If a pretrial pleading filed with the Court, or an exhibit thereto, discloses or relies on confidential documents, information or material, such confidential portions shall be redacted to the extent necessary and the pleading or

exhibit filed publicly with the Court.

17. The Order applies to pretrial discovery. Nothing in this Order shall be deemed to prevent the Parties from introducing any DESIGNATED MATERIAL into evidence at the trial of this Action, or from using any information contained in DESIGNATED MATERIAL at the trial of this Action, subject to any pretrial order issued by this Court.
18. A Party may request in writing to the other Party that the designation given to any DESIGNATED MATERIAL be modified or withdrawn. If the designating Party does not agree to redesignation within ten (10) days of receipt of the written request, the requesting Party may apply to the Court for relief. Upon any such application to the Court, the burden shall be on the designating Party to show why its classification is proper. Such application shall be treated procedurally as a motion to compel pursuant to Federal Rules of Civil Procedure 37, subject to the Rule's provisions relating to sanctions. In making such application, the requirements of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and the Local Rules of the Court shall be met. Pending the Court's determination of the application, the designation of the designating Party shall be maintained.
19. Each outside consultant or expert to whom DESIGNATED MATERIAL is disclosed in accordance with the terms of this Order shall be advised by counsel of the terms of this Order, shall be informed that he or she is subject to the terms and conditions of this Order, and shall sign an acknowledgment that he or she has received a copy of, has read, and has agreed to be bound by this Order. A copy of the acknowledgment form is attached as Appendix A.
20. To the extent that any discovery is taken of persons who are not Parties to this Action ("Third Parties") and in the event that such Third Parties contended the discovery sought

involves trade secrets, confidential business information, or other proprietary information, then such Third Parties may agree to be bound by this Order.

21. To the extent that discovery or testimony is taken of Third Parties, the Third Parties may designate as “CONFIDENTIAL,” “RESTRICTED - ATTORNEYS’ EYES ONLY,” or “RESTRICTED CONFIDENTIAL SOURCE CODE” any documents, information or other material, in whole or in part, produced or given by such documents, information or other material, in whole or in part, produced or given by such Third Parties. The Third Parties shall have ten (10) days after production of such documents, information or other materials to make such a designation. Until that time period lapses or until such a designation has been made, whichever occurs sooner, all documents, information or other material so produced or given shall be treated as “CONFIDENTIAL” in accordance with this Order.
22. Within thirty (30) days of final termination of this Action, including any appeals, all DESIGNATED MATERIAL, including all copies, duplicates, abstracts, indexes, summaries, descriptions, and excerpts or extracts thereof (excluding excerpts or extracts incorporated into any privileged memoranda of the Parties and materials which have been admitted into evidence in this Action), shall at the producing Party’s election either be returned to the producing Party or be destroyed. The receiving Party shall verify the return or destruction by affidavit furnished to the producing Party, upon the producing Party’s request.
23. The failure to designate documents, information or material in accordance with this Order and the failure to object to a designation at a given time shall not preclude the filing of a motion at a later date seeking to impose such designation or challenging the propriety thereof. The entry of this Order and/or the production of documents, information and

material hereunder shall in no way constitute a waiver of any objection to the furnishing thereof, all such objections being hereby preserved.

24. Any Party knowing or believing that any other party is in violation of or intends to violate this Order and has raised the question of violation or potential violation with the opposing party and has been unable to resolve the matter by agreement may move the Court for such relief as may be appropriate in the circumstances. Pending disposition of the motion by the Court, the Party alleged to be in violation of or intending to violate this Order shall discontinue the performance of and/or shall not undertake the further performance of any action alleged to constitute a violation of this Order.
25. Production of DESIGNATED MATERIAL by each of the Parties shall not be deemed a publication of the documents, information and material (or the contents thereof) produced so as to void or make voidable whatever claim the Parties may have as to the proprietary and confidential nature of the documents, information or other material or its contents.
26. Nothing in this Order shall be construed to effect an abrogation, waiver or limitation of any kind on the rights of each of the Parties to assert any applicable discovery or trial privilege.
27. Each of the Parties shall also retain the right to file a motion with the Court (a) to modify this Order to allow disclosure of DESIGNATED MATERIAL to additional persons or entities if reasonably necessary to prepare and present this Action and (b) to apply for additional protection of DESIGNATED MATERIAL.

SIGNED this 26th day of January, 2024.


ROY S. PAYNE
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
MARSHALL DIVISION**

RAVENWHITE LICENSING LLC,

Plaintiff,

v.

THE HOME DEPOT, INC. *et al.*,

Defendants.

§
§
§
§
§
§
§
§

CIVIL ACTION NO. 2:23-CV-423-JRG-RSP
(Lead Case)

**APPENDIX A
UNDERTAKING OF EXPERTS OR CONSULTANTS REGARDING
PROTECTIVE ORDER**

I, _____, declare that:

1. My address is _____.

My current employer is _____.

My current occupation is _____.

2. I have received a copy of the Protective Order in this action. I have carefully read and understand the provisions of the Protective Order.

3. I will comply with all of the provisions of the Protective Order. I will hold in confidence, will not disclose to anyone not qualified under the Protective Order, and will use only for purposes of this action any information designated as “CONFIDENTIAL,” “RESTRICTED - ATTORNEYS’ EYES ONLY,” or “RESTRICTED CONFIDENTIAL SOURCE CODE” that is disclosed to me.

4. Promptly upon termination of these actions, I will return all documents and things

designated as “CONFIDENTIAL,” “RESTRICTED - ATTORNEYS’ EYES ONLY,” or “RESTRICTED CONFIDENTIAL SOURCE CODE” that came into my possession, and all documents and things that I have prepared relating thereto, to the outside counsel for the party by whom I am employed.

5. I hereby submit to the jurisdiction of this Court for the purpose of enforcement of the Protective Order in this action.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Signature _____

Date _____